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Patent Application  
of  
Raymond F. Chase  
for  
Reusable Directional Golf Tee Apparatus and Method

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This patent application is based upon U.S. provisional patent application 60/444,785 filed by the same inventor on February 4, 2003, and claims all priority and benefit available therefrom.

BACKGROUND - FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to golf tee setters and holders, specifically to a simple and compact reusable device having a three-fold purpose, first to align a golfer to the desired flight path of his or her golf ball, second to position the face of the golfer's club to the intended direction of the ball, and third to enable the golfer to place his/her club head or face at the exact center of the golf ball during club/ball contact. Its use can benefit all golfers by helping them to visualize the position they must take in addressing and striking a golf ball to obtain greater distance and accuracy in launching the ball along a desired flight path. The present invention comprises a substantially T-shaped plate that is used at ground level with its cross member at one of its ends, one centrally located aperture therethrough that is sized and configured for insertion of a golf tee, and the end remote from its cross member having a configuration that tapers to a point. In addition, a darkened substantially perpendicular line extends from the aperture to the center of the cross member, for use by the golfer in positioning his/her club face to the exact center of the golf ball for a center strike of the golf ball at the time of club/ball contact and greater distance and accuracy of the ball once struck. Although not limited thereto, the maximum length and width dimensions of the plate are typically three inches or less. Also, during use the plate is

1 placed on the ground at a spaced-apart distance in front of the golfer's feet with the central  
2 aperture positioned under the anticipated point of contact between the ball and the face of the  
3 golfer's club. Subsequently, the plate is situated into its usable position with its tapered end  
4 directed toward the intended flight path of the golf ball ultimately supported thereby, a golf tee is  
5 inserted through the plate's aperture and partially into the ground below the plate, and a golf ball  
6 is balanced upon the top surface of the tee at a spaced apart distance above the upper surface of  
7 the plate. As the golfer addresses the ball prior to striking it, he or she is positioned to face one  
8 of the sides of the plate, not its pointed end or its cross member, with the pointed end of the plate  
9 being directed toward the intended flight path of the golf ball and the cross member oriented  
10 toward the direction from which the club will be swung so that the golfer can use the cross  
11 member to align the face of the golf club prior to the golfer's swing, with the darkened line  
12 extending from the aperture to the center of the cross member giving the golfer exact center of  
13 the golf ball as a reference for club face positioning. Thus, once the plate is properly positioned  
14 at ground level, the golfer is able to rely on the tapered end, cross member, and the darkened  
15 perpendicular line between the aperture and the cross member, for directional assistance in self-  
16 alignment relative to the desired flight path of his or her golf ball and positioning of the golfer's  
17 club face to the intended direction of ball movement for accurate launching of the ball along an  
18 intended flight path. Since the golfer does not have to look up prior to the swing, the golfer's  
19 position and stance are not compromised during the swing, resulting in a straightened swing that  
20 is more consistent in launching a golf ball through the desired flight path. Further, since the  
21 present invention is compact in size, typically having length and width dimensions three inches  
22 or less, it can easily be stored in a clothing pocket or golf bag between uses. Although standard  
23 tees can be used with the present invention and adjusted in height for use with different types of  
24 clubs, other tees can also be used, such as a tee having added length dimension that provides  
25 more options in ball height adjustment, as well as a tee with several spaced-apart laterally-  
26 extending grooves on its shaft that are configured to engage the aperture in the present invention

1 plate and thereby fix the grooved tee at several pre-determined heights, with each groove being  
2 designated for ball contact with a different type of club so that a center strike of the launched golf  
3 ball can be more consistently achieved, producing more even ball recoil and a more predictable  
4 shot. The size of golf tee used is therefore selected according to user preference, however, the  
5 suggested minimum size is approximately two-and-one-fourth inches, or fifty-five millimeters.

## 6 7 BACKGROUND - DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

8 Good performance in golf demands consistency from the golfer, and many golfers seek  
9 aids to improve stance, swing, and ball contact during practice and games. Often, such devices  
10 are complex and expensive to use. In contrast, the present invention is simple in design, easy to  
11 use, compact, effective, and can be manufactured and sold for a reasonable cost. Further, when  
12 not in use, it is small enough to be conveniently stored in a clothing pocket or a golf bag, where it  
13 can be readily accessed for immediate use as often as needed.

14 The device thought to be closest to the present invention is the invention disclosed in U.S.  
15 Patent 5,482,284 to Vandever (1996). The Vandever invention and the present invention are  
16 both golf training and practice devices that assist a golfer in more accurately determining the  
17 flight path of a golf ball. However, there are important differences between the Vandever  
18 invention and the present invention. The Vandever invention comprises two major parts. The  
19 first part has four evenly spaced apart pointers extending from a central hub. One of the pointers  
20 extends rearwardly toward the golfer. Another pointer extends in the opposite direction toward  
21 the ball, and the remaining two pointers extend laterally relative to the golfer, respectively  
22 extending in the direction of the intended flight path of the golf ball once it is struck and in the  
23 opposed direction from which the golf ball is to be struck. Each of the golfer's feet are  
24 positioned on a different side of the pointer that extends rearwardly toward the golfer, with both  
25 feet remaining behind the laterally extending pointers in a position remote from the ball. The  
26 second part of the Vandever invention is an alignment member that assists the golfer in angling

1 the face of the club for optimal club/ball contact. The alignment member is attached to the one  
2 of the pointers extending toward the ball. In contrast, the present invention is less complex in  
3 design and has a unitary construction. No time is required to assemble the present invention  
4 prior to use, as it is employed without assembly. Also, when using the Vandever invention, the  
5 golf ball to be struck is positioned at the end of a pointer. In contrast, with the present invention,  
6 the golf ball to be struck is balanced on a tee above its centrally located aperture. Another  
7 difference between the present invention and the Vandever invention is that the portion of the  
8 present invention providing flight path directional assistance to a golfer is the end that tapers to a  
9 point, while in the Vandever invention the laterally extending pointer is aimed toward the  
10 intended flight path of the ball. Also, the alignment portion of the Vandever invention is a  
11 separate component that is attached to the forwardly extending pointer and during use is  
12 positioned between the ball and the laterally-extending pointer employed as its flight path  
13 directional aid. In the present invention the cross member is used for such club face alignment.  
14 In addition, the present invention is smaller than the Vandever invention, simpler to use, does not  
15 require assembly, and is less expensive to manufacture. No golf tee holder and directional aid is  
16 known to have the same structure or all of the advantages of the present invention.

17

#### 18 BRIEF SUMMARY OF INVENTION

19 It is the primary object of this invention to provide a compact and easy-to-use reusable  
20 device upon which a golfer can rely for effective directional assistance in striking a golf ball  
21 balanced upon a tee. It is also an object of this invention to provide a device which that prevents  
22 a golfer from having to look up prior to or during the initial stages of a swing so that his or her  
23 position and stance are not lost, and whereby a straightened swing is achieved that is more  
24 accurate and consistent in launching a golf ball through an intended flight path. It is a further  
25 object of this invention to provide a directional tee apparatus that ensures a steady swing of a golf  
26 club prior to club/ball contact and prevents premature wrist hinge. A further object of this

1 invention is to provide a directional tee apparatus that is suitable for use by all golfers. It is also  
2 an object of this invention to provide a directional tee apparatus that is able to adjust ball height.  
3 It is also an object of this invention to provide a directional tee apparatus that can be used with  
4 standard golf tees, tees having added length dimension, as well as grooved tees that are adapted  
5 to provide pre-determined increments of ball height adjustment. It is a further object of this  
6 invention to provide a directional tee apparatus that is lightweight for easy transport and storage  
7 between uses. A further object of this invention is to provide a directional tee apparatus that is  
8 made from durable materials and requires little or no maintenance between uses. It is a further  
9 object of this invention to provide a directional tee apparatus that is simple in design for cost  
10 effective manufacture.

11 As described herein, properly manufactured, and used at ground level to position a golf  
12 ball relative to a golfer, prior to club/ball contact and ball launch into a desired flight path, the  
13 present invention provides golfers with a means for straightening their swings when striking the  
14 ball, and assistance in positioning their club faces directly in the exact center of the golf ball  
15 during club/ball contact that results in a more predictable shot. The present invention can be  
16 repeatedly used during practice or during a game, and can provide assistance to golfers of all  
17 experience and skill levels by helping them to visualize the position they must take in addressing  
18 and striking a ball to obtain an intended flight path of the struck ball with greater accuracy.  
19 Further, by channeling the forward motion of the club, it corrects inaccuracies in a golfer's  
20 swing. Since the present invention is compact and placed at ground level under the ball, with the  
21 outer vertical surface of the cross member being used to align the face of the golfer's club, the  
22 perpendicular line between the central aperture cross member being used to place the club face in  
23 the direct center of the golf ball during club/face contact, and the pointed end providing  
24 directional assistance to the golfer for self-alignment, with the pointed end, perpendicular line,  
25 and cross member all being in close visual proximity to the ball and the adjacent club head prior  
26 to the swing, the golfer can concentrate on his/her swing without having to look up, allowing the

1 golfer's position and stance to remain uncompromised during the swing and resulting in a  
2 straightened swing that is more consistent in launching a golf ball through a desired flight path.  
3 During use, the present invention always stays at ground level, with the ball to be struck balanced  
4 on a tee inserted through its plate's central aperture and into the ground. Further, the present  
5 invention is simple and efficient to use, since it has a unitary construction and there is no  
6 complex set-up prior to use or dismantling between uses. The simple configuration also makes it  
7 cost effective to manufacture. Ease in transport between uses is facilitated by its small size,  
8 typically having maximum length and width dimensions that are three inches or less, as well as  
9 the capability of the present invention to be manufactured from lightweight materials such as  
10 plastic. Further, the materials from which it is made are preferably durable for repeated reuse and  
11 selected so that little or no maintenance is required between uses. Before the present invention is  
12 employed with a golf ball in play, the golfer needs to determine the desired flight path for the ball  
13 and select an appropriate ground location relative to that flight path for placing the present  
14 invention. The plate's aperture is centered upon the selected location and the pointed end of the  
15 plate is then aimed in the direction of the desired flight path. A tee is then inserted through the  
16 central aperture of the plate and partially into the ground, after which the golf ball to be launched  
17 is balanced upon the top surface of the tee. Any type of tee can be used, including those with  
18 grooves for ball height adjustment at pre-determined increments and those having a longer shaft  
19 than standard size tees. However, a tee that having a length of at least two-and-one-fourth inches  
20 is preferred. Use of the cross member of the present invention to align the golfer's club ensures a  
21 confident and steady swing, and prevents premature wrist hinge. The darkened perpendicular  
22 line on the surface of the T-shaped plate between the aperture and the cross member can then be  
23 used to position the club face to the exact center of the golf ball. Informational markings in the  
24 form of instructions for present invention use may also assist the golfer in orientation of the  
25 present invention device, as well as orientation of the golf club face with the cross member for  
26 assistance in obtaining a center strike of the intended golf ball when the golf club is ultimately

1 swung.

2 While the description herein provides preferred embodiments of the present invention, it  
3 should not be used to limit its scope. For example, variations of the present invention, while not  
4 shown and described herein, can also be considered within the scope of the present invention,  
5 such as variations in the length and width dimensions of the main body of the plate between its  
6 pointed end and the cross member, the length and width dimensions of the cross member, the  
7 thickness dimension of the plate, the size of the acute angle created by the pointed end, and the  
8 number and type of informational markings used, if any. Thus, the scope of the present invention  
9 should be determined by the appended claims and their legal equivalents, rather than being  
10 limited to the examples given.

#### 11 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

12 Fig. 1 is a top view of the most preferred embodiment of the present invention having a  
13 substantially planar plate with a substantially T-shaped configuration, an aperture centrally  
14 though the plate, the cross member of the T-shaped configuration on one of the ends of the plate,  
15 the pointed end of the plate in a position opposed to its cross member, and a darkened  
16 perpendicular line extending between the aperture and the cross member.

17 Fig. 2 is an elevational view of the pointed end of the most preferred embodiment of the present  
18 invention, with the cross member visible laterally behind the pointed end.

19 Fig. 3 is an elevational view of the end of the most preferred embodiment of the present  
20 invention having the cross member.

21 Fig. 4 is a side view of a golf tee with horizontally-extending grooves on its shaft that can be  
22 used with the plate of the most preferred embodiment of the present invention for ball height  
23 adjustment at pre-determined intervals according to the type of golf club selected for contact with  
24 the ball, the suggested size of which is a minimum of approximately two-and-one-fourth inches,  
25 or fifty-five millimeters.  
26

1 Fig. 5 is a top view of a second preferred embodiment of the present invention having an aperture  
2 extending through a central location on its plate, a pointed end that is more narrowly tapered than  
3 the pointed end of the first preferred embodiment, the cross member of the T-shaped  
4 configuration on one of the ends of the plate, the pointed end of the plate in a position opposed to  
5 its cross member, a darkened perpendicular line extending between the aperture and the cross  
6 member to indicate the exact center of the golf ball to the golfer for club face alignment prior to  
7 club/ball contact, and informational markings on the upper surface of the plate.

8 Fig. 6 is a top view of the most preferred embodiment of the present invention positioned  
9 beneath a golf ball supported by a hidden golf tee within a central aperture through its plate, a  
10 golf club aligned with the cross member prior to club/ball engagement, and a darkened line  
11 perpendicular to the cross member extending to the golf ball that gives the golfer the  
12 perfect/exact center of ball as a club face alignment reference.

13 Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the most preferred embodiment of the present invention with a  
14 golf tee inserted through a central aperture in its plate and extending upwardly beyond the upper  
15 surface of the plate, a golf ball balanced upon the top surface of the golf tee, and a darkened line  
16 extending between the cross member and the aperture that is substantially perpendicular to the  
17 cross member.

18

## 19 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 Fig. 1 shows the most preferred embodiment of the present invention having a plate 2  
21 with substantially planar and T-shaped configurations. Plate 2 is used at ground level. Its main  
22 body 4 is adjacent to a cross member 8 that creates the T-shaped configuration at one of plate 2,  
23 with a pointed end 12 adjacent to a tapered area 10 and in a position opposed from cross member  
24 8. Fig. 1 shows main body 4, cross member 8, and tapered area 10 all having a unitary  
25 construction, with cross member 8 and tapered area 10 each seamlessly depending from main  
26 body 4. A unitary molded construction is preferred, although not critical. Further, it is

1 contemplated for plate 2 to be sufficiently small that a golfer (not shown) can easily hold it in one  
2 hand, with the dimensions of plate 2 also allowing for easy transport of plate 2 in a clothing  
3 pocket or golf bag (not shown) when it is not being used. One example of size dimensions that  
4 would allow such ease in manipulation of the present invention, although not limited thereto,  
5 would be when its preferred length dimension is approximately two-and-three-fourths inches, its  
6 preferred width dimension is approximately three inches (with main body 4 having a width  
7 dimension of approximately one inch and each end of cross member 8 extending approximately  
8 one inch beyond main body 4), and its preferred thickness dimension is approximately one-fourth  
9 of an inch. Also, for durability and practically maintenance-free use, although not limited  
10 thereto, it is preferred for plate 2 to be made from virtually unbreakable plastic materials. Fig. 1  
11 further shows a central aperture 6 laterally centered through main body 4 between pointed end 12  
12 and cross member 8. Aperture 6 would be a snug fit to any golf tee used, such as but not limited  
13 to a standard golf tee or the spaced groove snap golf tee 16 shown in Fig. 4. Although Fig. 1  
14 shows aperture 6 as being substantially round for ease in insertion and removal of the  
15 substantially shaft of the golf tee 16 shown in Fig. 4, or other standard golf tee used, the round  
16 configuration is not critical, and should golf tee shafts having other configurations ever be made,  
17 main bodies 4 could also be made with aperture 6 configurations adapted for use therewith. As  
18 shown in Fig. 7, during use of plate 2 the upper portion of tee 16 remains raised above the top  
19 surface of main body 4. For better support of a golf ball, such as golf ball 24 shown in Figs. 6  
20 and 7, at the moment of club/ball impact it is preferred that aperture 6 be substantially centered  
21 laterally within main body 4. However, the distance between aperture 6 and pointed end 12  
22 could be varied, as long as aperture 6 is not positioned so close to pointed end 12 that would  
23 cause a golf ball 20 balanced upon the tee 16 within aperture 6 to obscure the directional aid  
24 provided by pointed end 12. In using the length and width dimensions for plate 2 provided  
25 above of approximately two-and-three-fourths inches and approximately three inches,  
26 respectively, Fig. 1 shows the center of aperture 6 being positioned approximately one-and-

1 eleven-sixteenth inches from pointed end 12. Further, it is contemplated for the diameter of  
2 aperture 6 to be sufficiently large for easy insertion of a golf tee 16 therethrough, but at the same  
3 time allowing a minimum of lateral movement for tee 16 when it is in its usable position within  
4 aperture 6 and ready for support of a golf ball 24. Fig. 1 also shows tapered area 10 and pointed  
5 end 12 having the configuration of an isosceles triangle. Although such a symmetrical  
6 configuration and lateral centering of aperture 16 within main body 4 are not critical, they are  
7 preferred for best visual reference by a golfer in accurately aiming pointed end 12 toward the  
8 flight path desired for golf ball 20. In addition, Fig. 1 shows a darkened perpendicular line 14  
9 extending between aperture 6 and cross member 8 that gives the golfer the exact center of the  
10 golf ball 24 for club face 26 alignment prior to club/ball contact. Line 14 can also be  
11 distinguished by color, or a combination of several easily visible colors. In the alternative,  
12 darkened perpendicular line 14 can be marked only on the upper surface of main body 4, or  
13 extend downwardly across the vertical face of cross member 8.

14 Figs. 2 and 3 show the thickness dimension of plate 2 being substantially uniform  
15 throughout. Fig. 2 shows plate 2 viewed from its pointed end 12, while Fig. 3 shows the end of  
16 plate 2 having cross member 8. For durability and ease of use, the approximate one-fourth of an  
17 inch thickness dimension cited for plate 2 in the example given above is preferred for most  
18 embodiments of the present invention, even when the length and width dimensions of plate 2  
19 respectively exceed the above-identified two-and-three-fourths and three inches. Further, Fig. 2  
20 shows cross member 8 extending laterally beyond the sides of main body 4 in opposite directions  
21 and the opposing extensions of cross member 8 to be substantially uniform in length. Although  
22 such uniformity is preferred, the symmetrical configuration shown is not critical to the present  
23 invention as long as the golfer using it is provided with a visual reference for proper of alignment  
24 of a golf club (such as club 28 in Fig. 6) and the darkened perpendicular line 14 shown in  
25 extending between aperture 6 and cross member 8 that gives the golfer the exact center of the  
26 golf ball 24 for club face 26 alignment to achieve a center strike of golf ball 24 at the time of

1 club/ball contact. whereby the golfer can concentrate on position and stance instead of whether a  
2 center strike will be made with golf ball 24, resulting in a straightened swing, more accurate  
3 launching of ball 24 along a desired flight path, increased distance, and fewer strokes.

4 Fig. 4 shows an optional golf tee 16 that can be used with plate 2 as a part of the present  
5 invention for adjustment of golf ball 24 to an optimum height for a center strike with golf club  
6 28, more even recoil, and a more accurate launch of golf ball 24 along a desired flight path. Fig.  
7 4 shows golf tee 16 having three spaced-apart grooves 18, with the distance between the  
8 uppermost groove 18 and the middle groove 14 being greater than the distance between the  
9 middle groove 18 and the lowest groove 18. Each groove 18 is configured to firmly snap into  
10 main body 4 as golf tee 16 is inserted through central aperture 6 in main body 4 and into the  
11 ground (not shown). However, the firmness with which each groove 18 is retained by main body  
12 4 should not prevent tee 16 from being further inserted through main body 4 with relative ease to  
13 engage the next higher groove 18, when desired. Further, the grooves 18 shown in Fig. 4 are  
14 positioned at various heights for use with selected golf clubs 28. Although not limited thereto for  
15 every golfer, when the tee 16 used is approximately two-and-one-fourth inches in length (or  
16 approximately fifty-five millimeters), the preferred minimum length for tee 16, it is generally  
17 preferred for the uppermost groove 18 to be centered approximately nine-sixteenths of an inch  
18 from the top of golf tee 16 for use with 3-wood clubs and irons. Similarly, it is preferred for the  
19 middle groove 18 to be centered approximately one inch from the top of golf tee 16 for use with  
20 1-wood clubs. Further, it is preferred for the lowest groove 18 to be centered approximately one-  
21 and-one-fourth inches from the top of golf tee 16 for use with jumbo clubs. The diameter of the  
22 grooved golf tee 16 shown in Fig. 4 should be configured for a snug fit within aperture 6, with  
23 little lateral movement while being used. However, the diameter of the grooved golf tee 16  
24 shown in Fig. 4 should also be sufficiently small to allow for its easy insertion into and removal  
25 from aperture 6.

26 Fig. 5 shows a second embodiment 20 of the present invention with a tapered area 10 that

1 has an extended and more narrowed configuration than is shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 also shows  
2 aperture 6 laterally centered through main body 4, and informational markings 22 on the upper  
3 surface of main body 4, tapered area 10, and cross member 8. Although not limited thereto,  
4 informational markings 22 can include arrows, circles, lines, numbers, words, instructions for  
5 use, company logos, patent and trademark information, and the like. Color enhancement can be  
6 used for informational markings 22 to provide distinctiveness where appropriate or desired.  
7 Informational markings 22 can also include images. Although not shown, information markings  
8 22 can also be placed on the reverse side of plate 2 to provide additional company information,  
9 information related to a special promotion or cause, or for any other purpose desired by the  
10 manufacturer or distributor.

11 Figs. 6 and 7 show the most preferred embodiment of the present invention, previously  
12 shown in Fig. 1, with darkened perpendicular line 14 on its upper surface between aperture 6 and  
13 cross member 8. Although not shown in Fig. 7, it is contemplated for line 14 to be optionally  
14 extended down the vertical face of cross member 8. Fig. 6 shows the face 26 of a golf club 28  
15 aligned with cross member 8 and a golf ball 24 balanced upon the top surface of hidden golf tee  
16 16, which is laterally centered within main body 4 in aperture 6, with the darkened substantially  
17 perpendicular line 14 shown extending between aperture 6 and cross member 8 giving the golfer  
18 the exact center of golf ball 24 for club face alignment and an enhanced opportunity for a center  
19 strike of golf ball 24 when club/ball contact occurs. As can be seen in Fig. 6, the most preferred  
20 embodiment has length and width dimensions that are approximately double the diameter of golf  
21 ball 24, with golf tee 16 being positioned so that golf ball 24 extends beyond the sides of main  
22 body 4 without obscuring cross member 8, tapered area 10, pointed end 12, or line 14. In the  
23 preferred embodiment shown in Fig. 6, tapered area 10 creates an approximately 90° angle at  
24 pointed end 12. In contrast, the longer and more narrowly configured tapered area 10 shown in  
25 Fig. 5 creates an angle at pointed end 12 that is visibly less than 90°. The perpendicular  
26 orientation of line 14 relative to cross member 8 is critical. However, line 14 does not need to

1 extend completely between aperture 6 and cross member 8, as long as a sufficient amount of line  
2 14 is near to or in contact with cross member 8, and visible when viewed from above once golf  
3 ball 24 is placed upon tee 16 for use in prompt golfer identification of the exact center of golf  
4 ball 24. Fig. 7 shows golf ball 24 being positioned upon a tee 16 that is inserted through plate 2  
5 between cross member 8 and tapered area 10. It is assumed that pointed end 12 is aimed at the  
6 flight path desired for golf ball 24 after being struck by a golf club, such as golf club 28 in Fig. 6,  
7 when the golf club is aligned with cross member 8 prior to club/ball contact. It is not revealed in  
8 Fig. 7 whether golf tee 16 has any grooves 18. However, if the golf tee 16 shown in Fig. 7 has  
9 multiple grooves 18, it would be the uppermost groove 18 that is seen having a snap-fit  
10 engagement with main body 4. Although not shown in Fig. 6 or 7 and even if only for aesthetic  
11 appeal, it is also considered to be within the scope of the present invention for line 14 to be  
12 extended all or part of the distance between pointed end 12 and aperture 6. Line 14 in any  
13 embodiment of the present invention may also be embellished over the simple darkened  
14 configuration shown in Figs. 6 and 7, such as being configured as two or more closely spaced-  
15 apart lines, having one or more lines of similar or different color or lines each comprised of  
16 multiple colors, or made from one or more broken lines or a aligned sequence of other objects,  
17 such as but not limited to dots, small squares, small triangles, miniature golf tees, miniature golf  
18 balls, miniature company logos, and the like. Line 14, with or without any design or color  
19 embellishments, assists a golfer in aligning the face 26 of golf club 28 along cross member 8, or  
20 in achieving any off-center position desired for golf club 28 relative to cross member 8 to correct  
21 for inaccuracies in the golfer's swing.

22 To use the present invention, a golfer first needs to determine the desired flight path for  
23 golf ball 24 and select an appropriate ground location relative to that flight path for placing plate  
24 2. The golfer then centers aperture 6 at ground level upon the selected location and aims pointed  
25 end 12 in the direction of the desired flight path. The golfer then inserts a golf tee 16 through  
26 aperture 6 and into the ground (not shown) below plate 2, after which the golf ball 24 to be

1 launched is balanced upon tee 16. Thereafter, the golfer uses the pointed end 12 for self-  
2 alignment to the desired flight path of golf ball 24 and stands at the appropriate distance from  
3 plate 2, with golf club 28 in hand, and further uses cross member 8 and the darkened line 14  
4 extending between aperture 6 and cross member 8, which gives the golfer the exact center of golf  
5 ball 24, to align the face of golf club 26 for a center strike with golf ball 24, whereafter the golfer  
6 can concentrate on a confident and steady swing instead of club/ball alignment. Being able to  
7 concentrate on a confident and steady swing is very important in golf. When the golfer's swing is  
8 straightened prior to striking golf ball 24, premature wrist hinge is avoided and the resulting shot  
9 is more predictable. During use, plate 2 always stays at ground level. Through the optional use  
10 of golf tees 16 having several spaced-apart grooves 14, the height of golf ball 24 can be adjusted  
11 for optimum advantage when different types of golf clubs 28 are employed to strike it.

12 Plate 2 can be repeatedly used during practice or during a game, and can provide  
13 assistance to golfer's of all experience and skill levels by helping them to visualize the position  
14 they must take in addressing and striking golf ball 24 to obtain greater distance and accuracy in  
15 launching ball 24 along a desired flight path. Further, by channeling the forward motion of golf  
16 club 24, the present invention corrects inaccuracies in the golfer's swing. Since the present  
17 invention is compact and placed under golf ball 24, with the outer surface of cross member 8  
18 being used to align the face of golf club 24 and pointed end 12 providing directional assistance to  
19 the golfer for self-alignment, and the pointed end 12, cross member 8, and darkened  
20 perpendicular line 14, being in close visual proximity to golf ball 24, the golfer can concentrate  
21 on his or her swing without having to look up prior to making the swing, allowing the golfer's  
22 position and stance to remain uncompromised during the swing and resulting in a straightened  
23 swing that is more consistent in launching golf ball 24 through a desired flight path. Not having  
24 to look up prior to making a swing is very important to most golfers for preserving proper stance.  
25 Since it has a unitary construction and there is no complex set-up prior to use or dismantling  
26 between uses, the present invention is simple and efficient to use. The simple configuration also

1 makes it cost effective to manufacture. Ease in transport between uses is facilitated by the small  
2 size of plate 2, typically having maximum length and width dimensions of approximately three  
3 inches, as well as its ability to be manufactured from lightweight materials such as plastic.  
4 Further the materials from which plate 2 is made are rugged, durable, unaffected by contact with  
5 moisture and vegetation, and require little or no maintenance between uses other than cleaning  
6 when ground surfaces are damp for reuse or storage in a golf bag or pocket.

7